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William C. Spencer

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Rep. No. 689, 48th Cong., 1st Sess. (1884)

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WILLIAM C. SPENCER.

MARCH 7, 1884.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DIBRELL, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition for the relief of William C. Spencer, submit the following report:

Captain Spencer was appointed second lieutenant United States Army, Second Infantry, June 18, 1855; promoted first lieutenant April 30, 1861; appointed captain Seventeenth Infantry, May 14, 1861; served with regiment in Minnesota and Nebraska from 1855 to 1858; *en route* to Virginia June, 1861. During his service in Minnesota he was commended by General Orders No. 14, November 13, 1857, for gallant and conspicuous service in demanding of an armed band of Indians a murderer. Was on recruiting service from July 15, 1861, to March 11, 1862; with regiment in Virginia to June 24, 1862, when he was arrested on a charge of disloyalty, confined at Fortress Monroe until August 19, 1862; was permitted by General Sykes, his division commander, to go to Northeastern Virginia, and allowed to do duty with the Fourteenth United States Infantry in the battle of Bull Run, Va., August 30, 1862, and is highly spoken of for his efficiency on that occasion. On the 4th of September a court-martial was ordered for his trial, but General McClellan's march into Maryland prevented its organizing. General Sykes reported that he procured a medical certificate not recognized by him and left the command, and directed that he be reported a deserter, and that the President drop him from the roll. This was concurred in by Generals Porter and McClellan. He afterwards forwarded to the Adjutant-General two medical certificates, which were not recognized at the Department, and he was ordered to join his command for trial November 17, 1862, and on the 3d December, 1862, he tendered his resignation, which was accepted.

It is due to Captain Spencer to say that the language used by him that caused his arrest was provoked by the arrest of a near relative of his in Maryland, and abuse of said relative. He had applied for leave of absence to go and look after his relative, which was refused him, and thus the indiscreet language was provoked. He is highly recommended as a gentleman, and was on December 13, 1866, appointed a second lieutenant by the President; but upon examination by an examining board he was rejected because of loss of right eye and physical disability. A second examination was ordered July 2, when he was again rejected, for want of educational qualifications. A favorable report was made on a similar bill to the Senate by Senate report No. 654, second session Forty-sixth Congress. Your committee report the same back, and recommend its passage.

By order of the committee on a vote it was ordered reported adversely.